

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE  
BRAMPTON & WALTON  
LOCAL BOARD  
FOR THE YEAR 1892.

CHESTERFIELD:

PRINTED BY THE DERBYSHIRE COURIER CO., LTD., HIGH STREET,



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TO THE

## BRAMPTON AND WALTON URBAN AUTHORITY.

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GENTLEMEN,

This Report deals only with nine months of the year—that is, from the time of my appointment as your Medical Officer in April to the end of December. It is further incomplete owing to changes which have taken place, due to the Extension of the Borough of Chesterfield. It will be convenient to speak, in the first place, of the whole district. From the 1st April to the 9th November—the date on which the Extension scheme came into force—108 deaths were registered. Of these, 56 were males and 52 were females. This gives an annual death-rate of 20·1 per thousand. In the preceding year the death-rate was practically the same, namely, 20·3 per thousand. These figures compare favourably with the returns from other places, yet when we consider the rural character of a large portion of the district, I think the mortality is somewhat high. Doubtless the prevalence of Influenza, which was again epidemic in the earlier part of the year, is responsible for much. Five deaths were directly attributed to this cause, but there can be no question that many of the deaths set down to Respiratory diseases had Influenza as a factor in their fatality.

The year has been remarkable for the great variety of infectious diseases we have had in our midst. Besides Influenza, we have had Scarlatina, Mumps, Whooping Cough, Measles, and a few cases of Typhoid fever. The cases of Scarlatina have been very mild, but three deaths were occasioned by it. In October there was an outbreak of this complaint among the teachers at Holymoorside School. Three were ill at the same time, and as four

were necessarily absent from duty, it was deemed advisable to close the School for a time. This was done, with the result that there was no further spread of the disease. Measles, Whooping Cough, and Mumps were present in an epidemic form. The first-mentioned has been very widespread. At Old Brampton School the attendance became so small from the great number of children ill with the complaint that it was considered necessary to close the place for a fortnight. Measles was responsible for four deaths, Whooping Cough for nine, and Typhoid fever for two. Facts seemed to prove that in the case of the last-mentioned disease, the infection had been brought from Blackpool, where the patient had resided in a house with marked sanitary defects. Three cases arose from this one. Three other cases occurred at a distance from the first, but here it was impossible to trace the source of infection. The houses were thoroughly disinfected, with the result that there was no further spread of the disease.

A reference to the table of ages will show what is always a noticeable feature in returns from places where much female labour is employed, namely, the high rate of mortality among infants. Nearly one-third of the total number of deaths recorded occurred in children under one year, and half the deaths were children under five years. Improper diet is responsible for a large number of these cases. When the mother is engaged at outside work it usually means artificial feeding and often neglect for the child.

The birth-rate is highly satisfactory. From the 1st April to the end of November, 233 births were registered: of these, 123 were boys, and 110 were girls. This gives a rate of 41.3 per thousand.

From time to time during the year I have reported to the Board nuisances that have come under my notice, and in every case the defect complained of has been put right. In addition to this a large number of cases have been attended to in an informal way.

Together with the Medical Officer for the County I visited Mr. Brown's farm, where a fatal case of diphtheria had occurred in the preceding year. There was reason to suspect the

drinking water as the source of infection. Analysis, however, showed it to be good, but several other sanitary defects were detected about the premises.

I have also visited the Sewage works belonging to the Board. The filtration at Holymoorside is carried on in a very imperfect manner, with the result that a large amount of impurity finds its way into the river. When the Settling Tanks which Messrs. Manlove have constructed in connection with their dye-house are in efficient working order, no doubt a great improvement will result.

A great many cases of overcrowding have come under my notice. Warning has often been given in an informal way, but not much could be done on account of the great scarcity of house accommodation.

There is now little use in commenting on the Sanitary condition of the old district, as the responsibility now rests with another authority, but I would like to indicate what in my opinion are the most pressing reforms needed. These are—(1) a better system of ventilating and flushing the sewers, (2) the emptying of privies and ash-pits by night only, (3) the better inspection and cleansing of slaughterhouses, some of which constitute a nuisance.

Turning now to the new district, there have been two deaths and 14 births registered, but these data are insufficient to calculate accurately a rate per thousand. If, however, the present ratio of seven births to one death continues, it will be a highly satisfactory one.

On the whole the new district is in a fairly good sanitary condition. Much may yet be done to improve it, more especially by individual effort. Many of the farmyards and cattle sheds are in a filthy condition, and it appears to me sufficient importance is not attached to the drinking water used by the cattle. The ease with which infection can be carried by milk is a well-known fact, and it is a matter of great importance that the dairies which supply us with their produce should be in a cleanly condition, and free from the power of communicating disease. For this, among other reasons, I would strongly advise the Board to adopt the Notification of

Infectious Diseases Act. Twenty-four of the forty-six Sanitary Authorities of Derbyshire have done so, but the full benefit of the Act cannot be obtained until notification is compulsory throughout. Quite recently cases of Scarlatina have occurred in farm houses in your district, and it is easy to see how an epidemic of the disease might have arisen had not precautions been at once taken to prevent the contamination of the milk. Compulsory notification is the only certain way of enabling the medical officer to become aware of the presence of such diseases. The cost in this district would be very small indeed. It would probably not average more than £2 per year for notifying fees.

Although small-pox has been, and still is, very prevalent in the neighbourhood, we have not as yet had a case in the new district. The disease may, however, appear at any time, and it is a matter for the Board to determine what is to be done by way of isolation. There are three possible courses :—

- (1) An arrangement with some neighbouring authority for the accommodation of our cases.
- (2) The erection of a small hospital of our own.
- (3) Isolation, as far as is possible, in the patient's own home.

The last is the least expensive, but the least satisfactory. An agreement with other authorities at present seems impossible, as it appears each district has quite enough to do to provide for their own cases. The cost of a small iron Hospital would not be great, and it would place us in a satisfactory position to deal with the disease if it should make its appearance.

Another subject that must shortly engage the attention of the Board is the water supply for Walton. The residents there have great trouble and a long way to go to obtain pure water. Many of the wells are quite unfit for use and ought to be closed. Numerous complaints have been made to me on this subject.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES A. GOODFELLOW.

# TABLE OF DEATHS

During the Year 1892, from 1st April to 9th Nov., in the Urban Sanitary District of Brampton and Walton, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.										Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.													
	At all ages.					Under 1 year.					1 & under 5					5 & under 15					15 & under 25			
Brampton and Walton	108	34	16	11	5	27	15	5	27	15	Under 5	2	2	-	4	8	5	-	12	1	-	16	50	
New Brampton and Walton District (from 9th Nov. to Dec. 31st):—						5 upwds.	1	-	2	-	1	-	7	-	7	17	10	5	15	58				
New District	...	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	5 upwds.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1			

# Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1892, from 1st April to 9th Nov., in the Urban Sanitary District of Brampton and Walton, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1892	Population at all ages.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.		Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	7
				Under 5 5 upwds.	Over 5.		
Brampton and Walton	8339	8440	233	1	7	2	1
New District	...	2050	14	5 upwds.	-	2	-
New Brampton and Walton District (from 9th Nov. to 31st Dec.) :—						1	-

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1892, in the Urban Sanitary District of Brampton and Walton.

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		Inspections and observations made.	Informal Notices served by Inspectors.	Legal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-Houses and Schools:—					
Foul Conditions	...	...	1	1	
Structural Defects	...	...	2	0	
Overcrowding	...	...	0	0	
Unfit for Habitation	...	...	0	0	
Lodging-Houses (none in district)			0	0	
Dairies and Milkshops (Act not carried out)			0	0	
Cow Sheds	Do.		0	0	
Bakehouses	...	...	0	0	
Slaughter-houses	...	...	0	0	
Canal Boats	...	...	0	0	
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	27	21	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...		1	1	
Water-Closets	...	...	0	0	
House Drainage:—					
Defective Traps	...		6	5	
No Disconnection	...		6	6	
Other Faults	...		9	6	
Water Supply...	...		0	0	
Pigsties	...		0	0	
Animals improperly kept	...		0	0	
Offensive Trades	...		0	0	
Smoke Nuisances	...		0	0	
Other Nuisances	...		6	5	
			58	45	
			—	—	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	2			
"      " condemned as unfit for use		1			
Precautions against Infectious Disease:—					
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or destroyed	...	...	2		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease		2			



